

## The Washington Times

THE NATIONAL DAILY

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### What Will Prohibition Do To Washington—No 1

Several Things, Probably, and All of Them Unpleasant.

[An attempt begins today to set aside legally the arbitrary act by which the city of Washington, without its consent and with utter disregard of its wishes and welfare, was suddenly made into a "dry city" by act of Congress. It is not probable that anything but the right to vote will enable Washington to undo this piece of foolish fanaticism. But it is well for those that live in Washington, even if not allowed to regulate their own lives, to consider what effect prohibition may have upon this city. The matter will be considered in editorials of which this is number one.]

A voteless city, like Washington, governed without its will, and sometimes against its will, does not discuss legislation as do American communities that live under the American system of government.

Here in Washington, when we see a thing coming, there is nothing to do but ask "what will it do to us?" We have as little to say about approaching legislation as the Western farmer has to say about the approaching cyclone. We simply wonder where it will strike.

Prohibition, inflicted on this community to please a well-meaning, fanatic, and unwise minority, and to enable Congress to placate the Anti-saloon League, which it dreads, is approaching Washington rapidly.

It would not be on its way, if the people of the city were allowed to govern themselves.

On the question of compulsory ice water, Washington has as little to say as the child in the nursery has to say about compulsory barley water.

What will prohibition do to Washington? This question is important and worthy of discussion and analysis.

Prohibition, first of all, will create, inevitably and justly, a feeling of resentment among representatives of foreign governments and other visitors from abroad.

What the house of a Senator or a Representative is to him and to his friends, this city of Washington is to the Government of the United States and to those that visit us from other countries.

Of the Congressmen that voted solemnly to inflict prohibition on Washington, not one in ten will inflict prohibition on friends visiting at HIS house.

Go to the house of any one of them, and he will say "What will you have, what is your custom? I do not presume to dictate to YOU."

But let the stranger from abroad or some other part of the United States come to Washington, the National Capital, the seat of government, and test American hospitality to strangers.

He will be told, "We dictate to you. You are to be governed here by the wishes of a small American minority. You are governed by an organization of fanatics, some of them sincere, who have terrified Congress by methods that would be called "blackmail" if practiced by less virtuous individuals.

By act of Congress, making Washington a prohibition city, without consulting the will of the hundreds of thousands that live here, or the will of the hundred million Americans that make up the nation, Congress has made this nation play the part of a surly ill-mannered host.

To the visitor from abroad it is particularly offensive to have in this Nation's Capital, the bigoted voice of fanaticism saying, "It pleases me that you should live here as I SAY YOU SHALL."

The first answer to the question, "How will prohibition affect Washington?" is this:

It will make of the Nation's Capital, which ought to be representative of broad-minded intelligence and toleration, a city twisted against the will of its own inhabitants, to represent a narrow-minded minority, not always practicing what it preaches, but insistent upon making OTHERS practice its preachings.

Prohibition will injure Washington in many ways unfortunately.

It will make the Capital of the United States ridiculous in the eyes of foreigners—as a city that allows a feeble minority of the nation's population to dictate to grown men as though they were children.

Congress represents the will of this entire nation. Congress has no right, so long as it retains the right to govern Washington as though it were a city of children; to inflict upon this city that which has not been expressed as the will of all the United States.

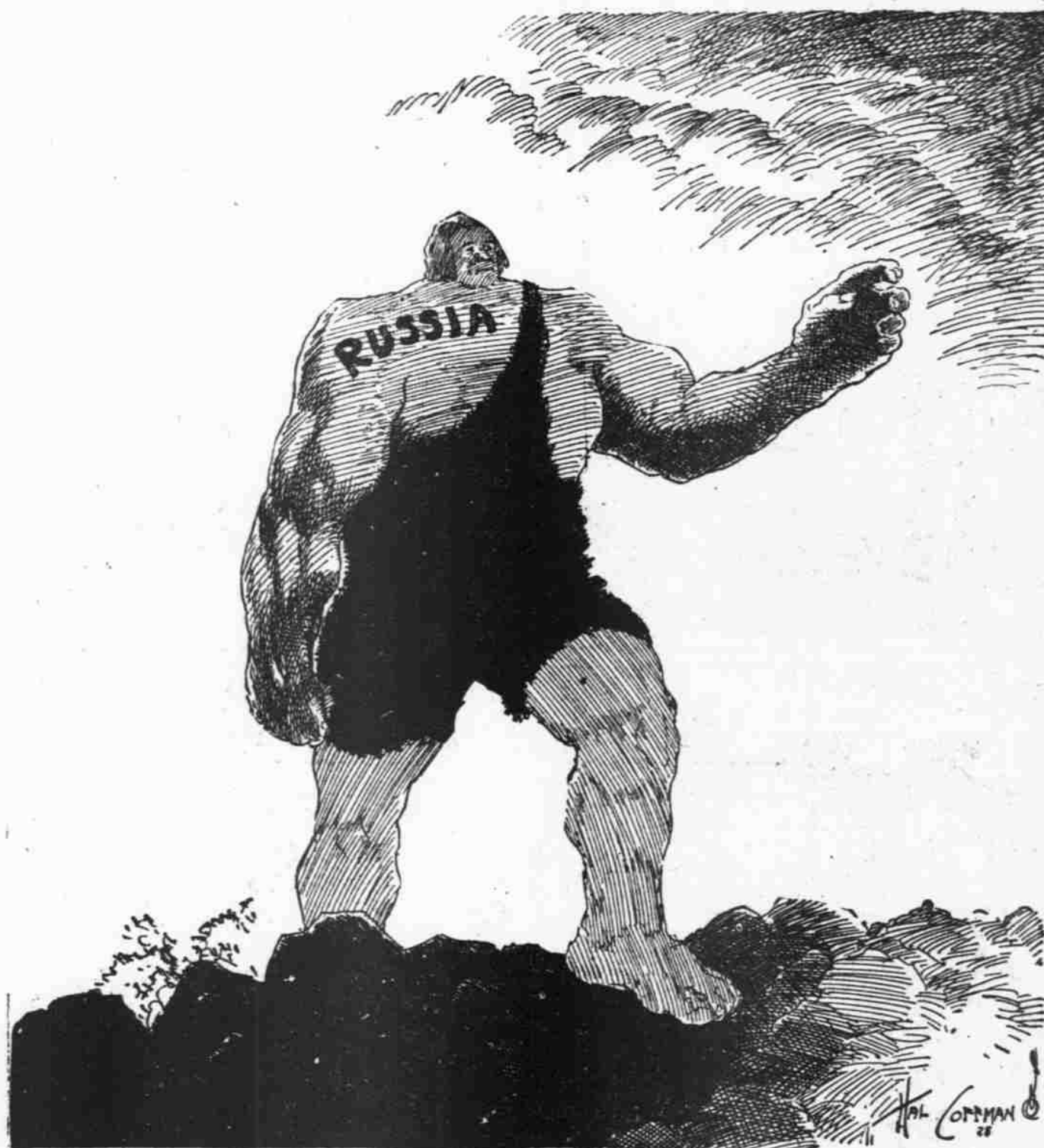
It might be excusable, if the entire nation had declared for prohibition, that Congress should force prohibition upon Washington. And if the nation should declare for vegetarianism, THAT might properly be inflicted upon the Capital.

As it is, this theory of life, foreign to every civilized nation in the world, foreign to every nation that has made progress since the day when Mohammed invented prohibition—this infliction upon Washington is an outrage against the voteless citizens and an injury to the city.

We invite and challenge Congress to prove its sincerity by making Washington BONE DRY, thus putting Congressmen themselves on an ice water diet.

(To be continued.)

### Too Much Body, Too Little Head



### PRAYER - - - A Beautiful Poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Lord, let us pray.  
GIVE us the open mind, Oh God.  
The mind that dare believe  
In paths of thought as yet untrod;  
The mind that can conceive  
Large visions of a wider way  
Than circumscribes our world today.  
May tolerance temper our own faith,  
However great our zeal.  
When others speak of life and death,  
Let us not plunge a steel  
Into the heart of one who talks  
In terms we deem unorthodox.

Help us to send our thoughts through space,  
Where worlds in trillions roll,  
Each fashioned for its time and place,  
Each portion of the whole;  
Till our weak minds may feel a sense  
Of Thy Supreme Omnipotence.

Let us not shame Thee with a creed  
That builds a costly church,  
But blinds us to a brother's need  
Because he dares to search  
For truth in his own soul and heart  
And finds his church in home and mart.

Give us the faith that makes us kind,  
Give us the open sight and mind  
Oh God, the open mind,  
That lifts itself to meet the Ray  
Of the New Dawning Day.

Lord, let us pray.  
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### The Use of Geology in War - - - By Garrett P. Serviss

THE recent enormous development of the sizes of armies and of the power and range of artillery has brought the military importance of another great branch of science into evidence—geology, the science of the rocks.

When man produces artificial earthquakes he must understand the structure of the earth's crust or he may do more harm to himself than to his enemies. The vibration from modern artillery fire is capable of starting avalanches and landslides, as Prof. Pogue, of Northwestern University, points out, so that when fighting in a mountainous region the army whose commanders and engineers are superior in geological knowledge may possess a considerable advantage through knowing where the greatest dangers from earth movements lie.

It is quite conceivable that an enemy force passing carelessly through some steep-sided gorge or encamped in a narrow valley surrounded with hanging glaciers, such as are found in many parts of the Alps and the Tyrol, might be overwhelmed by slides set going by a concentrated bombardment of the heaviest guns. There is many a perilous place among the recesses of those mountains, which seems safe enough to persons unacquainted with the peculiarities, the treacherousness, the long reach and the swift rush of avalanches and rock-slips. Experienced mountain climbers are often warned by their guides to tread softly and to avoid loud talking where ice cliffs and vast snow slopes hang, as it were, by a thread. The tumbling of the Plattenbergkopf into the Senft valley in 1881 would have buried a whole army corps in twenty-two seconds!

A more refined advantage that expert geological knowledge offers to an artillery commander relates to the quality of the rock-bed over which heavy guns are planted. Much of the accuracy of fire depends upon the elasticity and firmness of the foundations of the guns. The ordinary calculations of a projectile's range may be rendered futile by an unexpected response of the supporting ground to the shock of discharge. The ground and its underlying rock stratum are to the great gun what the soldier's shoulder and his bony framework are to the rifle. In connection with this is the interesting suggestion that observations with seismographs would serve to locate the position of hidden batteries of heavy guns in the same way in which they indicate the foci of earthquake shocks.

Then, as Prof. Pogue also points out, geological knowledge is important in the location and construction of trenches and tunnels. It is not merely a matter of the adhesive quality of the surface soil, but the drainage depends upon the character of the underlying rock, the direction of its slope, and the existence or non-existence of faults and fissures. The same considerations enter into the choice of proper locations for roads intended to bear the tremendously heavy and incessant traffic demanded for the operations of great armies. The eye of the practical geologist can read subterranean secrets in the face of a landscape which would entirely escape the attention of a commander unfamiliar with such studies. In this war the very structure of the planet plays a part in the operations. Up in the air, under the sea, beneath the ground, the struggle goes on, and everywhere he who has expert knowledge of the locality possesses the best chance of success.

### Living Conditions in Washington

Distress and Suffering in One-third of Families Should Be Investigated By Congress—More Pay for Government Clerks Might Solve Problem.

By DAVID LAWRENCE.

The Department of Labor's statistical survey of living conditions in the District of Columbia revealing "a shocking state of economic indecency" comes as a surprise to most people. The war, it had been supposed, was increasing per capita incomes so rapidly that suffering and unemployment were thought to be the exception rather than the rule. There should be further investigation to determine why the city of Washington shows distress in one-third of its families. Twenty-six per cent alone could show a surplus. This means that the best 48 per cent of the city's population could do was to come out even, while 30 per cent wound up the year with deficits.

Is it because Washington is not an industrial center, but a city of salaries and fixed incomes that the above-described conditions prevail? Political economy teaches us that in times of stress the salaried individual is the first to suffer. The wholesale or retail merchant or vendor as a rule increases the prices of commodities to meet his own cost of living and expense of production. There is always available to these classes a shifting of the burden to the consumer. And if the consumer happens to be of the laboring classes, organized labor can demand higher wages. But who can demand increased wages for the great mass of unorganized men and women of whom Washington has perhaps an extraordinary proportion?

The attention of the Congress of the United States is respectfully called to the statistical report of the Department of Labor just published. It should at least raise the question of whether the Government of the United States is paying all of its employees a living wage. True enough, thousands who are in distress are not employed by the Government, but in a city of more than 50,000 Government employees an increase in income indirectly assists the rest of the community. If conditions are as deplorable as represented in the official survey for 1916, what must they be for the year 1917 and what may we expect during the lean years of this great war? It is not too soon to institute an investigation into economic conditions here. The survey has brought out the facts. Let us have more information on the causes and then suggestions to remedy them.

### The Conservation of Human Life.

In a day and age when the toll of war takes away millions of lives, the need for conserving human life at home cannot be over-emphasized. Statistically speaking, the value of human life to community production increases greatly during wartime. The life of every boy and girl, therefore, takes on a new potentiality.

Accidents by the scores have been recorded in Washington in the last few weeks. Whether due to the carelessness of pedestrians or drivers of vehicles, the essential duty now is prevention by a campaign of education. You, yourself, may be the most careful driver, the most alert sort of a person in crossing streets, but unless the man who is driving an automobile knows how to operate it, knows how to handle brakes and turn corners, your liability to injury depends entirely on the success hereafter of the safety-first campaign.

In this connection, it might be pertinent to suggest that more attention be given by owners of automobiles to the condition of brakes. Traffic policemen report that drivers ordered suddenly to halt frequently give evidence of slipping brakes—the most dangerous of automobile weaknesses in congested sections of the city.

It is gratifying to note that William F. Peabody, president of the District Safety First Association, has called a meeting for October 10. Representatives of all citizens' associations, no doubt, will be present, and a house-to-house campaign begun.

### ELIZABETH JORDAN WRITES

#### On Men Who Do Not Like Children

Dear Miss Jordan:  
I love a girl who loves me. We want to be married, and I can support a wife in comfort. But the girl's mother has fought the match from start to finish, and is still fighting it.  
Her reason is that I once admitted that I didn't like children. Well, I don't like them—that's flat. But what's that got to do with it, and what's to be done about it?

Please tell us. We all three read your articles in The Washington Times.

W HEN a question like this comes up, H. W., one of two things must be done. Either the letter must be ignored (as you did not give your address) or decision must be given on the evidence submitted, without considering all there may be on the other sides and which you have not mentioned.

Taking your letter at its face value, therefore, knowing nothing of your personal charms, which may be great, nor of the strength of the girl's love for you, which also may be great, my suggestion is that the engagement be broken.

The fact that the girl's mother is "fighting" it for the sole reason that you do not like children is a very significant fact.

That mother knows her daughter very well, as most mothers do—not all of them. The chances are that she understands her daughter's nature. She may know that her daughter could not be happy without children. She surely knows that no tragedy is greater than that of the woman whose children have an indifferent father.

It may help you to understand the situation, H. W., if you will look at the matter this way:

All authorities agree that the two supreme human experiences for women are wifehood and motherhood. They should be of equal value. In their practical working out, however, we find that many

women, perhaps to the majority, their children are more necessary than their husbands.

Now, the mother's joy in her children, like the other joys in her new life, calls for partnership and sympathetic sharing. She expects and demands that their father's interest in her children, their father's pride and love, shall almost, if not quite, equal her own.

When the father fails to live up to this ideal he cuts her heart with a sword that is two-edged. He is failing her, which she might forgive. But here is the thing she can never forgive—he is also failing the children!

As it happens, I know two such fathers. Both are brilliant men. Both, from the world's point of view, are good husbands and fathers. They provide excellent homes for their families. They are educating their children.

Not one of the sons in those two houses would dream of going to his father for advice in a crisis. And the case of a boy who cannot go to his father in a crisis is a sad case indeed.

That, H. W., is the life you are asking the girl you love to live. She does not realize this. Her mother does. In fighting the prospect that mother is merely doing her obvious duty.

For the sake of the girl's happiness and your own, give her up. It will hurt—at first. But the ache of it may last for years. But that is a small thing compared to the long-drawn-out disappointment and disillusionment that fills a home headed by an indifferent father.

Better talk it over with the girl. If she suffers, help her out by telling her the truth. Say to her: "You see, dear, I'm not what you thought I was. I love you, but at heart I am cold and very selfish."

For, H. W., I have kept the grimmest fact for the end. It is only in cold and very selfish natures that paternal love can find no place.